IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs as follows:

[0003] The ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT LDAP software development kit (SDK) is designed to be used by C or C++ applications to communicate to a LDAP server. The LDAP SDK is designed to work with any LDAP server, even those not developed by ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT. Applications written using the ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT .Net languages (VB, C#, ASP) are encouraged to use the Active Directory Services Interface (ADSI) to communicate with LDAP servers since the LDAP SDK is difficult to use with the .Net languages.

[0024] One of various commercial operating systems, such as a version of ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT Windows™, a product of Microsoft Corporation located in Redmond, Wash. may be employed if suitably modified. The operating system is modified or created in accordance with the present invention as described.

[0026] **Figure 3B** depicts an improved manner of communicating with an LDAP server, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Here, VB/VB.Net/C# applications **315** communicate with the LDAP **325** by first going through SDK wrapper **320**. In the preferred embodiment, the LDAP is a ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT LDAP SDK software product, *e.g.*, "wldap32.dll".

[0029] The preferred embodiment improves on ADSI in that it works well with non-~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT LDAP servers. The LDAP SDK follows LDAP standards more closely than ADSI and because of this it works with other LDAP servers. The preferred embodiment is also faster than using the ADSI commands when working with non-~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT LDAP servers.

[0032] **Figure 4** depicts block diagram of a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Here, using the LDAP Wrapper **415**, the VB or C# .Net developer can avoid having to interface with the LDAP SDK **410**. The wrapper **415**, in this embodiment, is a VB .Net application so

interfacing with it is just like interfacing with a regular .Net application. In this diagram, VB/C# applications **405** interface with wrapper **415**. Wrapper **415** handles interactions with LDAP SDK **410**, including transactions with non- ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT LDAP servers **420**.

[0034] Next, the wrapper will transmit an LDAP function call corresponding to second function call to the software service, the software service preferably being a ~~Microsoft~~ MICROSOFT LDAP SDK <u>software product</u> (**step 515**).